

### **ABSTRACT**

Magnetically or optically detectable elements are arranged on a substrate so as to encode information to be stored. An information carrier comprises a plurality of individual detectable elements supported by, or incorporated in, a substrate wherein the spacing between the elements serves to encode the information and is such that it can be represented as  $A + mG$ , wherein  $A$  is a first fixed value,  $m$  is an integer (which may be zero) and  $G$  is a second fixed value, characterized in that the values of the integer  $m$ , are selected to be integers derived by a predetermined mathematical sequence or a random sequence generator.